

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting adoptive parents, comprising:

providing a plurality of parent-contestants;

~~{displaying, on a}~~ broadcasting to multiple receiving units,
each comprising a video display, ~~{an image of at least one}~~
images of said parent-contestants; and

~~{transmitting selections from a plurality of viewers to a~~
~~server facility over a communications network;}~~

~~{compiling said selections transmitted over said~~
~~communications network for each of said parent contestants; and}~~

awarding at least one child available for adoption to at least one winning parent-contestant.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising displaying, on said receiving unit, at least one image of a child available for adoption. ~~{}~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said images ~~{of at least one parent contestant is}~~ are displayed as a function of time.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting selections from a plurality of viewers to a
server facility over a communications network; and

compiling said selections transmitted over said
communications network for each of said parent-contestants,

wherein said selections comprise choices for at least one of:

a) eliminating a parent-contestant from a pool, and

b) selecting a parent-contestant to remain in said pool.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting selections from a plurality of viewers to a server facility over a communications network; and

compiling said selections transmitted over said communications network for each of said parent-contestants,

wherein said selections include comments.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, further wherein said comments comprise extemporaneous narrative and/or pre-selected narrative.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the selections are supplemented by bonus points.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further wherein said points are awarded to the parent-contestants based upon the performance of specified games or tasks.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~11~~ 4, wherein the parent-contestant receiving the greatest number of selections is either eliminated from a pool or selected to remain in said pool.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said selections are made intermittently or periodically.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said compiling is performed either intermittently or periodically.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said viewers are presented with the opportunity to change their selections after a specified period of time and or the occurrence

of a specified event.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said parent-contestants are subject to surveillance on an intermittent, periodic, continuous and or on-demand basis.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein information is presented on the display screen of said receiving unit.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further wherein said information includes at least one of graphical, video and audio data.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting adoptive parents, comprising:

a communications network for transmitting selections from a plurality of viewers;

a broadcast ~~{headed}~~ headend facility having a server for compiling said selections transmitted over said communications network for a plurality of parent-contestants;

a file storage device;

a least one viewer input device; and

a receiving unit comprising a video display for displaying an image of at least one said parent-contestants. ~~{,}~~

17. (Original) The system according to claim 16, further comprising a receiving unit comprising a video display for displaying at least one image of a child available for adoption. ~~{,}~~

18. (Original) The system according to claim 16, wherein said at least one input device includes at least one of a telephone, computer, portable digital assistant, set-top box and user-input controller.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 16, further comprising a parent-contestant surveillance device.

20. (Original) The system according to claim 18, wherein said surveillance device is a closed circuit and or distributed network.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein said device is portable.

22. (Original) The system according to claim 20, further wherein said portable device is wirelessly coupled to said headend facility.